MONTEREY NEWS

March 2001
VOLUME XXXI· Number 3

The Town

Town Clerk

Barbara B. Swann has been accepted into the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) Master Municipal Clerk Academy. To gain entry, which is not easy, candidates must complete graduate work at IIMC-approved municipal clerks institutes or prove similar advanced educational attainment. Professional participation must also be demonstrated, such as leadership in professional associations, committee work, conference attendance, and professional writings and achievement. Congratulations, Barbara.

Annual Town Meeting

Just a reminder that Articles to be included on the Warrant for the annual Town Meeting on May 5 must be submitted to the Town Hall by 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 9, 2001.

Tax Credit for Septic System Repairs

Effective for tax years beginning January 1977 and after, owners of residential properties in Massachusetts who expend money to repair or replace a failed cesspool or septic system are entitled to a tax credit against their Massachusetts personal income tax. Payment for sewer connections are also eligible if the connection replaces a failed cesspool or septic system.

The forms for eligible homeowners to file with their 2000 Massachusetts income tax returns are available at the Monterey Town Hall. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue operates a help line, 1-800-392-6089, to answer any questions about this program.

The Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), which took effect in December 2000, gives communities a new tool to help preserve their community character and manage growth. The law gives cities and towns that adopt the CPA the ability to establish a dedicated fund to protect open space, preserve historic sites, and provide affordable housing by allowing a

1 percent to 3 percent surcharge on local property taxes. For example, if a taxpayer's property taxes are $1,000 per year and the community adopts the CPA with a 3 percent surcharge, the taxpayer would pay an additional $30 per year toward the Community Preservation Fund. Matching grants will be available through the state's Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPTF). The CPTF's revenues are estimated at $25 million annually. The grants will range from 5 to 100 percent of the amount raised by the surcharge.

The Act allows three exemptions to the CPA surcharge: property owned and occupied by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing; the first $100,000 of taxable value of residential real estate; and class three commercial or class four industrial properties in cities and towns with classified tax rates.

If the CPA is approved by a town, a Community Preservation Committee comprised of five to nine members must be established. The committee would make annual recommendation on how the money shall be spent or set aside for future spending. The law requires that at least 10 percent of the monies raised through the surcharge go toward each of the three purposes: preserving open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. The community decides how the remaining 70 percent shall be spent on the three purposes.

A community may accept the CPA through passage by the legislative body (Town Meeting) through a warrant article or through a citizen initiative. In either case, the CPA must subsequently be approved by a simple majority of local voters in an election. To my knowledge, Becket is the only town in Berkshire County considering adoption of the CPA through the annual Town Meeting.

Grants and Loans for Home Repairs

The Rural Housing Service 504 Program: Home Improvement and Repair Loans/Grants, administered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, provides for necessary repairs and improvements to dwellings of qualified applicants through grants and 1 percent loans.

To qualify for a grant under the 504 Program, applicant must be 62 years of age or older, own and occupy a modest single-family house, have a very low income and be unable to repay a loan at a 1 percent annual interest rate. The repairs and improvements to be made must be necessary to make the dwelling safe and sanitary and/or remove health and safety hazards. Examples: roof, septic system, wells, furnace, insulation, plumbing, electrical. A 504 grant can be approved for up to $7,500. The applicant does not have to pay the grant back to the government, but will be required to remain in the dwelling for three years after receiving the grant.

To qualify for a loan under the 504 Program, applicant must be at least 18 years of age, have a very low income and be able to repay the loan at a 1 percent annual interest rate. The repairs and improvements may include cosmetic improvements or items to remove health or safety hazards. Examples: flooring, siding, windows, etc. A 504 loan can be approved for up to $20,000 at a 1 percent interest rate payable over twenty years.

For more information or to find out how to get application forms, contact Bonnie Jurgenson at the Monterey Town Hall, (413) 528-1443.

Meals on Wheels

Elder Services of Berkshire County Meals on Wheels program provides homebound elders with a nutritious, hot midday meal each weekday. Frozen meals are available for those who need weekend meals. Sugar-free desserts are available for diabetic clients, and lactaid milk is available for lactose intolerant clients.

There are no income guidelines; however, there are frailty guidelines, and a donation of $1.75 per meal is suggested. The menu is published weekly in local papers and in the *Berkshire Senior*. For more information or to request meals, call Elder Services, (413) 499-0524.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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Republican Caucus Call

Citizens of Monterey, Massachusetts WHO ARE QUALIFIED VOTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, are hereby requested to meet in caucus at the Firehouse in Monterey, Massachusetts, on Saturday March 10, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. to nominate candidates for the various Town offices to be voted for at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 5, 2001, at the Firehouse.

The caucus will be held and is called under the provisions of Chapter 53 of the General Laws and will be called to order by the Chairman of the Republican Town Committee.

The Republican Party also encourages Republican Party members (and Independents) to declare their interest in being considered as a candidate for the following offices in the May 5th Town elections.

Board of Appeals (5 years): One candidate
Board of Assessors (Three years): One candidate
Cemetery Committee (3 years): One candidate
Finance Committee (3 years): One candidate
Library Trustee
(3 years): Two candidates
(2 years): One candidate
Park Commission (3 years): One candidate
Planning Board (5 years): One candidate
Select Board (3 years): One candidate
Tax Collector (3 years): One candidate
Treasurer (3 years): One candidate
Tree Warden (1 year): One candidate
Constable (3 years): One candidate
Moderator (1 year): One candidate

Any resident wishing to be considered as a candidate for any one of the above positions, particularly if you feel your qualifications would be a positive contribution to the Town of Monterey, is asked to please promptly send in a short letter of intention to: Mr. Dean Amidon, Sandisfield Road, Monterey, MA 01245

— Republican Town Committee
Mark Makuc, Chairman

Fire Department Activities

Monterey Fire Engine #2, purchased in 1976, has outlived its usefulness, has minor malfunctions, and replacement parts are no longer available. It has been sold, and standing in its place in the Firehouse is a less expensive fire and rescue van, whose purchase was approved at the last annual Town Meeting. Also under consideration and about to happen is the purchase of a "Heat Thermal Imager," the latest technological device capable of finding an otherwise unseen source of heat, such as a fire already in progress inside a building, which is a dangerous situation and can require a different approach to deal with it. This mechanism was described in the January issue of *The Monterey News*, and provides the possibility of locating victims in icy water as well.

At the second regular Wednesday night meetng at the Firehouse for the month of February, a visiting lecturer funded voluntarily by Berkshire Propane Company of Great Barrington provided a comprehensive and professional instruction on methods of fighting propane fires. Andy Moro, Berkshire Propane's operations supervisor, specifically covered the characteristics and dangers of propane, including most likely situations, as well as others, such as a propane trailer turned over on Monterey roads, possibly leaking fumes, or already on fire from an ignition spark, or from the bulb of a flashlight.

As a service to residents here who use propane, two booklets recommended to be kept on hand for ready reference in the home were made available for distribution at the Town Hall . They are "Living Safely with Propane Gas" and "Safety Tips for Refilling Cylinders."

— George Emmons

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Daffodil Days

The Daffodil Day committee is at work calling for orders in Monterey. The town is always anxiously awaiting the beautiful flowers, the sale of which benefits the American Cancer Society.

The deadline for orders is March 9. A bunch of ten cut budded daffodils is $6.00. If anyone is not contacted this week, please call and place your order with a worker. You may pick them up at the Monterey General Store on Tuesday, March 27, where Gayle and Maynard Forbes will again distribute them, as they have been doing every year.

Our workers call in their own neighborhoods. They are Rita Backhaus, 528-2244; Barbara Dahlman, 528-8287; Shelly Bynack at the General Store; Leona Chamberlin, 528-0148; Ruth Champigny, 528-2856; Denise Andrus, 528-1723; Stephanie Grotz, 528-4519; Maureen Hough, 528-0782; Carol Edelman, 528-0006; Zed Pine, Cynthia Webber (elderly); Gould Farm, ask for Elaine, 528-1804. You may call them and place your order now.

Many thanks to all the workers, supporters, and the General Store for the success of this worthy cause.

Coordinating orders is Pat Mielke.

Don't forget to pick your daffodils up on Tuesday, March 27, at the Monterey General Store. For information, call Fran Amidon, 528-1233, or Pat Mielke, 528-5603. Thanks so much.

— Fran Amidon

From the Meetinghouse . . .

At the last minute my seminary class on Hildegard of Bingen was cancelled. So, I signed up for "Creation Theology," taught by Dr. Carole Fontaine. This woman is a firebrand, in the best of all possible ways: she makes trouble, her presence is colorful, her words glow hot. She's also an artist. Carole appears on "Mysteries of the Bible" on A&E now and then. Whenever her episodes run, she gets a flurry of e-mails telling her she's going to hell. Her research isn't mainstream.

What role does Earth play in the Hebrew Scriptures? We're pursuing this question in class. I'm tracing the recent history of the Monterey church; in the early 1990s Pastor Cliff Aerie pursued the creation spirituality of Matthew Fox. Carole's class is like an archaeological dig, brushing away at words and stories to see whether the God of the Bible shows love for the land, the animals, the sea, in and of themselves. I could talk theology with you, but I think you'd rather hear about the calf.

One of Gould Farm's old Ayrshires, Darla — the cow whose muscles ripple with delight when you rub her back — had a calf this past week. It's a little heifer, come in the midst of all this freezing rain and sleet and snow, come when all the pastures are covered with ice. What does a calf born in winter say about God? Words and stories are ancient, powerful things, but sometimes a calf is more powerful — more a piece of God's heart than anything we can write or say with our own mouths.

The Monterey Church will be meeting Friday evenings through the next month and a half to commemorate the season of Lent. Give me a call if you'd like more information.

The Reverend Allison Stokes, founding director of the Women's Interfaith Institute of the Berkshires, will be preaching on Sunday, March 11, at 10 a.m.

We want to thank everyone who gave toward our stewardship drive this year. We appreciate and celebrate your support! We are beginning a mission project: raising $5000 for a Heifer Project International "Ark" of animals for needy farmers. Stay tuned.

As always, we invite anyone who feels so moved to come join us for worship, Sunday mornings at 10 o'clock. We would love to have you!

— Pastor Heidi Haverkamp
528-5850, heidiruthha@hotmail.com

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From the Fish Hatchery Porch (in February)

Snows this winter have blanketed the Berkshires in ghostly folds of flakes and frost. Evergreen bows bend with the wintry weight, and each traveler's path is recorded in the snowy dunes. The woodlands hold a holy silence after this recent storm. Wild turkeys have meandered near the kettle, deer leave behind their nestled beds from the night prior, and even a black bear that forgot to hibernate wandered with magnificent paw near the pond (perhaps hoping for fish?)

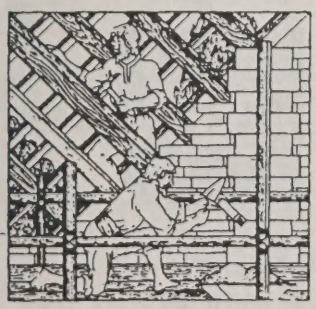
The fish that swam beneath the domes have been removed this winter due to being diagnosed with a virus. During early spring these pools will be sanitized and fish will be reintroduced in April. Berkshire neighbors will be invited to come to a fishing derby at the lower pond that will be announced in late spring.

The trails have been traveled this winter by snowshoers, skiers, dog-walkers, and an occasional snowmobile. The spring months will bring new sights along the trails, with small flowers unfolding and birds returning from their southern migration vacations.

The spring will also bring back the Hampshire College professor, Ken Bergstrom, who has been overseeing the Hatchery developments. He has been going through chemotherapy in Boston during the month of February. He has approached this ordeal with a courageous and positive outlook and hopes to return to assist with welcoming the new fish in April.

As the snows melt, swelling streams and tributaries, fish will stretch their fins again in the fresh waters. If you happen to be passing by River Road, stop in to explore the trails (wear boots!) or find the first snowdrop peaking through the wet leaves.

— Melissa M. Hamilton



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Southern Berkshire Family Network News

Community Partnership child care scholarships are available for children aged 2¾–5 years who live in the Berkshire Hills, Southern Berkshire, Farmington River, and Lee School Districts. Parents must work or be in school at least part-time. Income guidelines are liberal: a family of four can earn up to $6,773 a month. For more information contact your child care provider, preschool director, or Vicky at The Family Center.

We were not able to hold the Parenting Journey program as planned due to lack of interest. We need at least ten participants. We have the names of those interested and will add names. As soon as we have enough interest, we will attempt to hold the program. Please let Claudette or Vicky know if you are interested in the program

We have heard parents discuss the problems of transitioning children from one activity to another. Jessica Redman will be visiting parent-child playgroups and distributing handouts about transitions. Basically, the parent needs to know the proposed schedule, let the child know that a change will occur in a certain amount of time, help the child through the transition with a song, silly talk, or other device that you have learned will help you to accomplish the task. If certain transitions are too difficult, for example, going to the doctor's office, try to plan this event at a time when someone else can care for your child.

Rep Rap

It's the time of the year we all dread. Tax season. Forms, papers, deadlines, and number crunching. However, as we trudge through this tax season I have some news to share with eligible senior citizens that will help them with their taxes next year.

After many years of ardent advocacy I am proud to say that the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is effective beginning with the 2001 tax year. For tax years on or after January 1, 2001, taxpayers who are sixty-five years and older with incomes of $40,000 or less — $60,000 for joint filers — and a residence with an assessed value of $400,000 or less will be eligible for a tax credit on their state income tax return. Qualified taxpayers will be able to receive a maximum credit of $375 for property tax and certain sewer and water bills paid in 2001 that exceed 10 percent of their income for the 2001 tax year. In the second year of the program the maximum credit will increase to $750. Seniors citizens will initially be able to take advantage of this credit on the 2001 state tax form in January of 2002.

Elders who rent their homes are also eligible for a tax credit on their returns if 25 percent of their yearly rent exceeds 10 percent of their annual income. This would be in addition to the rental deduction already given under current state income tax law. Also eligible taxpayers, who don't owe any state income tax and don't file an income tax form, can still get a refund by filing a simplified form.

I know that the credits and deductions can be confusing, but please save your property tax and sewer and water bill receipts from this current year. If you are renting a home, save your canceled rent checks and have a copy of your signed lease for the year 2001. Next tax season you may find that you are eligible for an income tax reduction in 2001.

It is very gratifying to see the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit become law after many years of battling for this measure. If you should have any questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my district office at (413) 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

On Friday, March 9, at 10:30 a.m. there is a trip scheduled to the sugar bush at Gould Farm. See how maple syrup is made and snack on maple syrup samples. Call to register and call in case of inclement weather to see if the event has been canceled, (413) 528-0721.

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Senator Says

Spring must be near because partisan political activity is gearing up throughout the Commonwealth. Whether you are a Green, or a Republican, or somewhere in between, now is a good time to get involved. Town and ward caucuses of the Democratic Party will occur this year between March 3 through 11. At these meetings, registered Democrats elect delegates to attend the state convention which will occur on June 2 in Springfield. Voters from the small towns of western Massachusetts should make sure that they understand the caucus process, as participation in many towns has fallen off in recent years.

State Conventions

The tasks of a state convention vary according to the stage of the election cycle during which the convention takes place. Last year, the focus of the Democratic convention was the nomination of Edward M. Kennedy as our candidate for U.S. Senate. The 2001 convention will feature policy discussions, as the Party frames the issues for Democrats for the upcoming 2002 state election. In June 2002, the convention will nominate candidates for the statewide offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Auditor.

At every convention, delegates from around the state engage each other in lively conversation about the issues of the day. Announced and unannounced candidates make the rounds to woo potential voters. Interest groups push their points of view and vendors sell their wares from booths set up near the convention floor. There are often social gatherings on the night before, or during the day of, the convention.

BHH&F District Participation

Fourteen towns in the Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin State Senate District did not elect delegates to the state Democratic convention last year: Charlemont, Clarksburg, Florida, Granville, Hancock, Heath, Monroe, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Rowe, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Tolland, and Tyringham. Only the committee chair registered to represent the following twelve towns: Alford, Blandford, Egremont, Lanesborough, New Ashford, Otis, Peru, Plainfield, Richmond, Savoy, Washington, and Windsor. Overall, at least fifty convention slots reserved for this region went unfilled in 2000.

For the state Democratic convention, each ward or town is allotted at least one delegate slot, and the ward or town chair may also participate as a delegate with full voting privileges. If the chair is unable to attend the convention, another officer of the ward or town committee may use that slot. Additional delegate slots are allocated across the Commonwealth according to the number of votes cast for Democratic gubernatorial or presidential candidates in the last general election. The charter of the state party also provides for certain elected officials to serve as convention delegates, and for representatives of youth and disabled constituencies.

Be Part of the Solution

Getting involved is easier than you might think. Voters interested in the Democratic convention should check with their town clerk's office to make sure they are registered as a Democrat. Then call me in Pittsfield at 442-6810 for the name of the chair of your local Democratic Committee, and the date, time, and location of your caucus. If your local town committee is no longer active, I will provide you with information on how to reactivate it. You must be elected by your fellow caucus members but, as I noted above, many slots have gone begging for lack of candidates. Volunteers will coordinate car pools and provide bus information to help elected delegates get to the convention in Springfield on June 2.

I recognize that some readers might prefer to know about Republican or other conventions. In the interest of building bridges, I will try to obtain answers to your questions about Grand Old Party or other activities if you contact me.

No matter what party affiliation you choose, you must be present to win! Issues of great importance to western Massachusetts may be overlooked if we are not at full strength in the debate. I need grassroots activists throughout this region to join me in the fight for affordable health care, rural economic development, funding for regional school districts, local roads, forests and parks, and a host of other concerns.

I close with a line from a smart Massachusetts native, who understood the importance of engaging in the political process. At the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegates struggled to determine the form of government for the fledgling country. Afterward, responding to a citizen who inquired about the convention's decision, Ben Franklin answered, "A republic, Madame, if you can keep it."

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Monterey Artist Invited to Japan

In 1973, while visiting in Denver, Colorado, Leonard Weber saw an oriental scroll in the Denver Museum that was astonishing. It was 70 feet long, an ink drawing, painted in the ancient Japanese Sumi brush style. It depricted a shogon warlord, followed by an army of Samurai warriors. Behind them came villagers, children, carts, animals, beggars, etc. This drawing was probadoly done in the sixteenth or seventeenth century.

It was truly a remarkable work of art and a dazzling documentation of a Japanese feudal culture. Inspired by this elongated concept, Weber developed the Panoramic Townscape Series. This spatial format makes it possible to capture the character of an entire community, be it village, town, city, or historic site. A complete townscape requires about two weeks working on location, weather permitting. Mr. Weber's townscapes are now recognized throughout most of the United States, as well as in Portugal, Spain, England, Japan, Taiwan, and Korea.

Leonard Weber was invited to Japan last October by Art Print Japan, a client of five years. On behalf of Art Print Japan, he toured ten cities, including historic Hiroshima, signing his prints. His watercolors are in several Japanese private collections. Mr. Weber returned to the United States with a panoramic watercolor of Tokyo, which can be seen at his Hayloft Gallery, in Monterey, along with other watercolors — call (413) 528-1806.

Mr. Weber says that visiting Japan was an extraordinary experience. The people are extremely polite, respectful, and imbued with a strong work ethic. The contrast in the architecture of ultramodern Japan against the feudal structures of ancient shrines and castles, was visually opulent and fascinating. Leonard Weber plans to visit Tokyo again this October.

— Patricia Blumhagen

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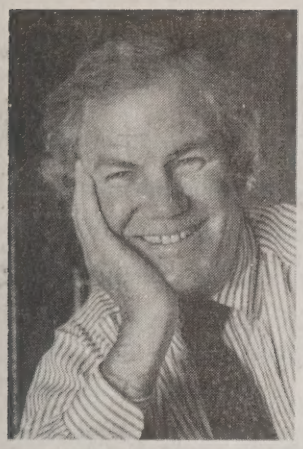


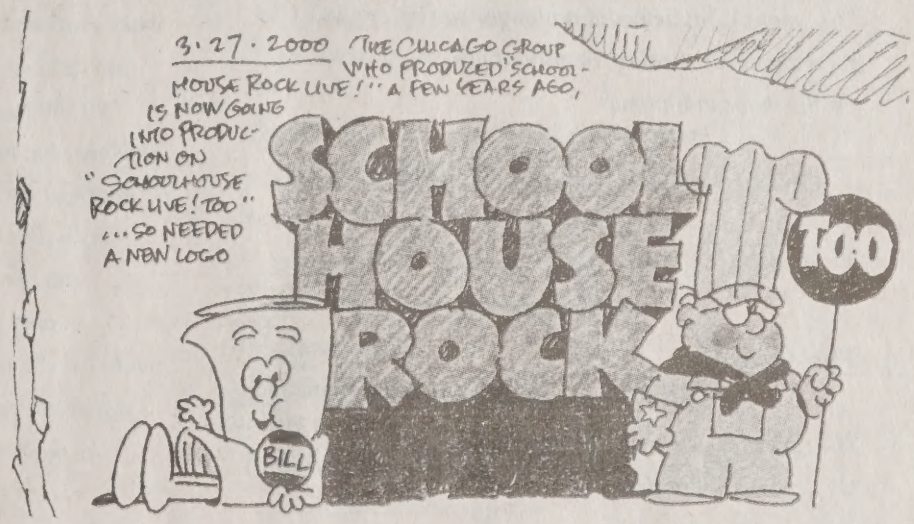
Remembering Thomas Yohe

Tom Yohe, a seasonal resident of 39 Bidwell Road in Monterey, died of pancreatic cancer on December 20, 2000, at the age of sixty-three. Tom and his wife, Diane, enjoyed their weekends and holidays in Monterey, and were subscribers as well as avid readers of the *Monterey News,* which kept them connected when they could not be here. We always knew they had arrived when we saw Diane walking along Main Road with their large yellow lab, appropriately named "Moose." In summer they kept a float and canoe on Lake Garfield frontage, just across Bidwell and down the hill from their house. In winter they were frequent fliers down the ski slopes of Butternut Basin, where a son, Darren, is an expert, an instructor, and a member of the safety patrol.

Tom Yohe, pronounced "Yo-hee," had a career as a successful art director in advertising, commuting daily from Norwalk, Connecticut, into the world of Madison Avenue in the Big Apple. While with McCaffrey & McCall, he was, with his partner George Newall, the creative force behind the Emmy-Award-winning cartoon television series *Schoolhouse Rock.* From 1973 through 1985, educational messages were choreographed with catchy tunes, helping children learn as they watched cartoons. Most memorable of these was a jingle about grammar called "Conjunction Junction," another about multiplication tables called "Three Is a Magic Number," and still another called "I'm Just a Bill," about how a bill in legislation becomes a law.

In the 1990s, a theatrical troop in the Midwest produced and presented a musical play based on the television series, with actors taking the parts of cartoon characters. The troupe traveled extensively to schools and libraries, as well as to theaters. As *Schoolhouse Rock* enjoyed a resurrection, it also achieved an educational cult status on college campuses. A popular by-product of Tom's creative genius was the *Schoolhouse Rock Calendar.*

The last time I saw Tom, he was still creating and innovating, doing a sketch of the Monterey General Store, while sitting in his car across the street. He told me he had made a resolution for the new year 2000, resolving to do a new drawing every day without fail. This effort resulted in a record of other impressions in Monterey, such as the spring sap buckets on the maple trees along Gould Road (see page 1). Little did I know then that the almost finished collection would be bound into a calendar of inspiration, representing each day in the last year of his life.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Almost every time I saw Tom, he had a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face. He was more than just naturally cheerful because deep down inside he had a smile in his heart for everyone whose life touched his. Everyone was proud to call him their friend because he had the most extraordinary gift for making others feel special. Whether with his cronies at P. J. Clarke's in Manhattan, or walking into the Monterey General Store, and especially with his family, somehow he made everyone feel blessed. In my opinion, what could be a more compassionate monument in the measure of a life of a human being than to have the ability to make others feel good about themselves.

— George Emmons

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"Only Get Drunk At Home" (Jack Kerouac)

In the morning his mom fixed emptytea.
Bags were dropped into the garbage
and she called from the kitchen,
"Do you want honey, dear?"

The bedroom at the end of the hall
was small, a boy's room.
In the single bed under the aluminum windows
the sun came in hurtful.

He thought to himself,
"No, mom," but he could no longer say it,
so, without responding, he turned over
for the thousandth time.

— Peter Shepley

The Geese

The racket of geese on the beaver pond.
My dreams! What dreams?
A drink of water.

— Peter Shepley

Haiku

Nature leads with songs
as sermons are dwelling
in changing seasons.

— Ann M. LaVallée

Attenzione! Caduta Angeli!*

not as easy as it used to be
limping for a lyric, the least of which,
half hanging, muted, all shades of brown
once quick and green, waxing so be-bop,
now unlimbed or almost forest floored
but leave it to sun lick late Octo-
ber, sweet kale and carrot tongued, to say
painting Venice stroke by stroke or some
garden lived and loved, spring by spring, feel-
ing every form, tasting every col-
or, listening at every table
could pregnancy some phoenix forming
when craft and beauty stood side by side
they danced away in drunkenness
forgetting to save their starter
now bent but hardly broken you push
my chair up to the fire side, pour
my wine till tears appear on my po-
etry, send me home with tea of chi-
cory for the leavening of woes
while I sculpt and craft these backs and limbs
you do the same with paints and brushes
the real work lies in passing on a
recipe that works on the palates
of the new dancers so that their young
saliva is rich enough in old
salts and enzymes to lift the leaden
doughs, the grain of generations, grist-
ed in the mills of fallen angels
the song of water lapping the mar-
ble steps of these gothic canals in-
cites a renaissance dance step
the rhythm of the falling red and
yellow maple leaves invites a new
poem whose lyrics paint horizon-
tal silhouettes on an old angel

**a warning sign outside the church of San Vidal in Venice where Bobo Feruzzi's retrospective exhibit was held, that the sculpted angels supporting the roof of the church were crumbling and falling*

— R. Zukowski

The Alchemist

I knew a golden man
who had a golden wife
for all the awesome privilege
he led a silver life

his fortunes were unsteady
his slippers made of tin
and climbing up to bed at night
they made an awful din

quicksilver were his daughters
of iron was his son
but by a copper-headed beauty
his fate was then undone

all metals became coins to him
to pay a lover's wiles
her flesh seemed made of petals
and oh! her flower-secret smiles!

he smelted and he melted
distilling down to lead
an alchemy of error
that left him almost dead

his tinctures and elixirs
were spilled upon the earth
till the proper putrefaction
gave homuncular rebirth

today he is a wizard
who wears a cotton gown
who cannot touch a metal
or smile without a frown.

— A. O. Howell

Daughter

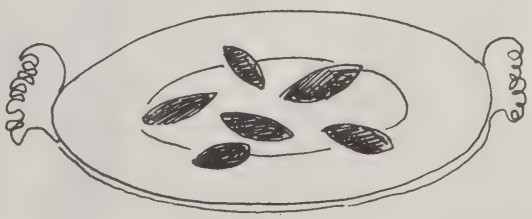
Almonds are waiting on a silver dish
but you have on white gloves
and will not touch them
I walked three decades in the wind
to Zabar's to get them —
the windows were steaming in the twilight
I bought them because you loved them

Now, pretending to be casual, I polish the dish of memory
with an aching heart
humming a hopeful hum
while I watch the clock hold its breath
Steel fingers are spreading out the city night
glittering in icy air

The elevator door rumbles out all my fears
the buzzer drones you burst through the door
your eyes fake shine above a painted smile
your kiss turns a key in the lock
then apologies hang stale in the air
with smoke
something came up so sorry! have to hurry —

Of course, the almonds wait on the silver dish
you have on white gloves
and can not touch them.

— A. O. Howell



Monterey: A Place in Time

Conclusion

The earliest white settlers harvested trees for building and in order to clear land. Wide-board floors are a testimony to the dimensions of the local trees and are now a status symbol to the current owners. For generations, farmers relied on their trees to supplement their incomes. What forest hadn't been cleared for farming was "coaled off" by the mid-1800s to meet the demands of the iron furnaces. Sheep and people went. By the early 1900s, the local forest had regenerated to such a degree that there was a glut of white pine on the market. Beginning with World War II, there was a demand for softwood used in crating and paneling. The shingles in our roof were split from white pine estimated to be 190 years old by the logger who gave them to us. These trees had escaped logging because they were inaccessible until the advent of the articulated log skidder. A second logging boom in the seventies went after the red oak which had had 100 years to mature.

The effect of these human activities was small by comparison to the damage caused by foreign pathogens. Just as contagious diffusion of diseases struck down the native population, the same process took a toll on the local forest. The mighty chestnut accounted for one-fourth of the forest when chestnut blight struck Monterey in 1918. Early photos of the town center show majestic elm trees. The elm bark beetle, imported from Europe has eliminated almost all of them. Beech trees were attacked by beech scale, another European import, starting as early as 1890, and white pine blister rust appeared in the early 1900s. Many of the pine trees we see today are red pine growing in plantations. Maple trees and hemlocks are the next victims. The loss of these trees has negative implications for wildlife habitat and for the economy.

The Mahicans were animists. Their rituals and prayers were directed to the spirits and the forces of nature. They did not understand ownership of the land in the European sense and soon lost their right to inhabit it. They were no match for Calvinist settlers, whose religious tradition taught them that the Earth was created to be used for their benefit and enrichment. The early years of the settlement revolved heavily around their places of worship, which were also where men met to discuss political and social issues of the day. It is no wonder that the town grew up around the Meetinghouse. It was after the War of Independence that the notion of separation of Church and State took root.

While the Meetinghouse continued as a center of village life well into the twentieth century, the strength of the congregation had much to do with the strength of the minister. During the earliest time, these men tended to be among the most educated members of the community and were depended on for this reason. As education became more universal, people grew less dependent on the church. In 1818 cults such as the Shakers and Mormons drew away some members, including the grandson of the first minister. Later, Baptists and Methodists were active in the region. While membership was at a high of 179 in 1833, by 1933 it had fallen to 67. Although the congregation swelled in the summers, the church never fully regained its position of power in town. Religion is thoroughly integrated in the town of Monterey nonetheless. Many summer folk came here because of church affiliations and have stayed. Ironically, some of the most recent arrivals are more animist than teleological.

The five cemeteries in town reflect much of the town's history. A recent walk through Henwood, the town's original cemetery, on a dark, misty day brought me face to face with the lives that are entwined in this story. Surrounded by the rushing waters of Loon Brook, Henwood is a mound of earth, carpeted in pine needles. The lichen-and-moss-encrusted grave stones seem to heave from the earth. I imagine Capt. John Brewer striving to return from the grave. Cross-eyed angels top each gravestone above the names now familiar. Husbands, "beloved" wives, consorts, and "dear children," they

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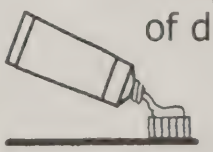

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were all familiar to each other once. This is sacred ground.

Corashire by comparison is a new cemetery. Opened in 1812, it is still receiving. I know a number of those laid to rest out there on the hill, but it doesn't hold that experience of the sacred which was so vibrant on my visit to Henwood.

Glynis Oliver

Several of the earliest homes built in Monterey still exist. The Bidwell house, the Brewer house, the Ariel house, and the Harmon house at Lowland Farm are clapboard houses, New England large in size, Georgian in style, with salt-box additions, and set close to the road. Most of the older houses in the town center reflect the Greek Revival period, having been built after the turn of the century. Smaller and less important homes mimicked the Cape Cod house, sometimes with a low-ceilinged second story. Cottages built around the lake were at first of logs and sometimes just shacks. There are some examples of Victorian style and also shingle style. Several of the original schoolhouses and some barns have been turned into homes.

The post-WWII building "boom" added a significant number of bungalows and a few ranch houses. Beginning in the 1970s, a vacation style of house appeared, characterized by dark-stained vertical board siding, decks with sloping horizontal railing, prefabricated metal windows, steeply angled mismatched roofs and skylights. These remind one of a sample board in a lumber yard and have no style. Several modular houses have also been assembled in Monterey, though there is a town prohibition against trailers. The new housing, other than that concentrated around the lake, is often situated in a radically cleared area and at a higher elevation so that the residents will have a "view." This is pop culture.

One of the largest buildings in Monterey is the firehouse. It is positioned on top of a hill on the Main Road. In the firehouse are three perfectly tuned fire engines, waiting to respond to any emergency. Trained firemen, most of whom work in town, wear beepers to summon them. Raymond Tryon has been the fire chief since 1954, as was his father before him; his son and grandson are also volunteer firemen. Once a year, the fire company holds a steak roast in a large pavilion they constructed behind the firehouse. Recently they've begun serving fish as well. In the winter, the pavilion is used as a skating rink. All town meetings and elections are held in the fire house. Recently, the firehouse has been the site of an annual swing dance party. In many ways, the firehouse and its chief have taken a central position in the affairs of the town.

Until now, Monterey has been constructed through the language of its past. Toponyms refer almost entirely to the names of the original settlers. There is

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A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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such homogeneity in the population that a foreign language is rarely heard and ethnic groups are represented mainly through adoption. The *Monterey News,* a local monthly, reports on town events and personalities.

The desire for a rural lifestyle, a notion of popular culture, will continue to draw people here from urban and suburban areas. This diffusion is at once migrational and hierarchical, affecting the products for sale in the general store, the books in the library, and political and economic functions in town. The sport-utility vehicle, a feature of popular culture, has increased access to more remote areas in town, opening sensitive areas to development. Large tracts of developable land are held by individuals and families. What protections are in place? Zoning bylaws require a minimum two-acre lot with 200 feet of frontage. In the lakeshore district, where lot size is one-half acre, buyers often acquire several lots to increase privacy. Title V regulations imposed by the state regulate the placement of septic systems, and the Conservation Commission oversees the protection of wetlands. What will the map of Monterey look like in the future?

Even as the Mahicans welcomed the white settler, so Monterey has welcomed "popular culture" and new ideas throughout its history, incorporating them and turning them into the folk culture of the town. The stories of the town have so much to do with that process. If popular culture leaves people without a sense of place, Monterey is where they hope to reclaim it. The danger is that they will overwhelm and destroy the very thing they seek.

— Michele Miller

Winter Wildlife Great and Small

At first glance, winter looks like a time when one could expect to turn inward, get on the couch under a quilt with a good long book. I'm sure some people take this sensible approach to the New England winter, keeping noses warm and doors closed to the glare and the cold. But for the wildlife appreciator, winter is exactly the time to get out and about.

For one thing, there are tracks. During the snowless times only the legendary sleuths and trackers can tell just what the four-leggeds have been up to. Sand, leaf-mould, mud, and dewy fields make tracking a challenge and most of us have to rely upon actual sightings, which are likely to be so fleeting that there is much to extrapolate in filling in the story of the life of the wild. But in winter we can follow the porcupine precisely as he moves deliberately along the driveway, in a clear new dusting of snow. We are likely to come right to the tree he went up to hide out for the day. I was following a porcupine fairly closely last month when I came upon the author himself. In his shortsightedness and his blind faith in instinct, he moved toward the nearest vertical post and started up it, to get away from a generally perceived danger. The post turned out to be my leg!

Another thing about winter that brings the wildlife to us is the absence of most of our pesky deciduous leaves. We can actually see into the woods a bit at this time of year, and the woods are lit from above by the bright winter sky and from below by the white blanket. A dark shape moving among the tree trunks is easy to spot. And even if you can't quite tell if this is your uncle or a bear, you can slip on snow-

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shoes or skis and go look at the tracks, which should settle the question.

In the winter I get plenty of phone calls from wildlife watchers eager to tell me about their latest sighting. Maybe the reason I get so many more such calls in winter is because people have some free time, or else freedom from distracting summer brain clutter, and can remember to get to the phone. But I think it is also true that many of us see more in the winter, and not just because the leaves are off. We can focus better now than during the Technicolor extravaganza of our summers. This is the black and white classic time of year and this is art when we have space and receptivity.

In one week recently I got two excited calls from quite different parts of town about a tiny bird, rarely seen in these parts or anywhere. This is the nocturnal saw-whet owl, a miniature flying tiger with a sweetly rounded head and long wings. She is typically seven inches long, from the tip of her short three-inch tail to the top of her head, with wings twenty inches long. Her feathers are fluffy, making her seem bigger than she is. When Eric Pedersen called me about his sighting on Tyringham Road in mid-February, he said, "You could have held it in the palm of your hand, one hand." This is true. Art Hastedt brought me a saw-whet owl years ago, recently killed when it had flown suddenly in front of his pickup. If you had plucked and dressed this bird for the oven, it would have been the size of a plum.

She has the reputation of being tame to human approach, unafraid. Ted Warner saw one perched on a snow-shovel handle just outside his front door right at the time of our big February snowstorm. He did not approach it, but chances are he could have, without upsetting it. Lewis Wayne Walker, in *The Book of Owls* (which includes the above photograph by G. R. Austing; Knopf, 1974), describes an adult saw-whet in New York's Central Park discovered on the branch of a small shrub by a group of people on a nature walk. Several people handled the bird and then returned it to its perch. Not only did it not fly off, it returned to the same branch for several days and didn't mind further handling.

Saw-whets get their name from the sound of their most typical call. This is heard right at this time of year, February, March, and April, and is a rhythmic metallic "tang, tang" like the sound of someone sharpening a big resonant metal saw blade. Once the eggs are laid, the birds become much quieter and secretive. They are not so likely to come close to human habitations or into barns, as they will sometimes do in winter, particularly after a storm. I read an account of a farmer who found a little owl which had spent the night in his barn. In one night it had killed seven pigeons, and even the smallest of these was twice the size of the owl. What would one little owl do with all these pigeons? I'm not sure, but the saw-whets do have the habit of storing mice, frozen, and then thawing them by incubating the frozen meat as if it were an egg.

I have never walked up to a live saw-whet — on Tyringham Road, on a snow shovel, or in Central Park. But hearing other people's stories of these encounters has sharpened my winter and brightened my life. This is winter wildlife, great and small.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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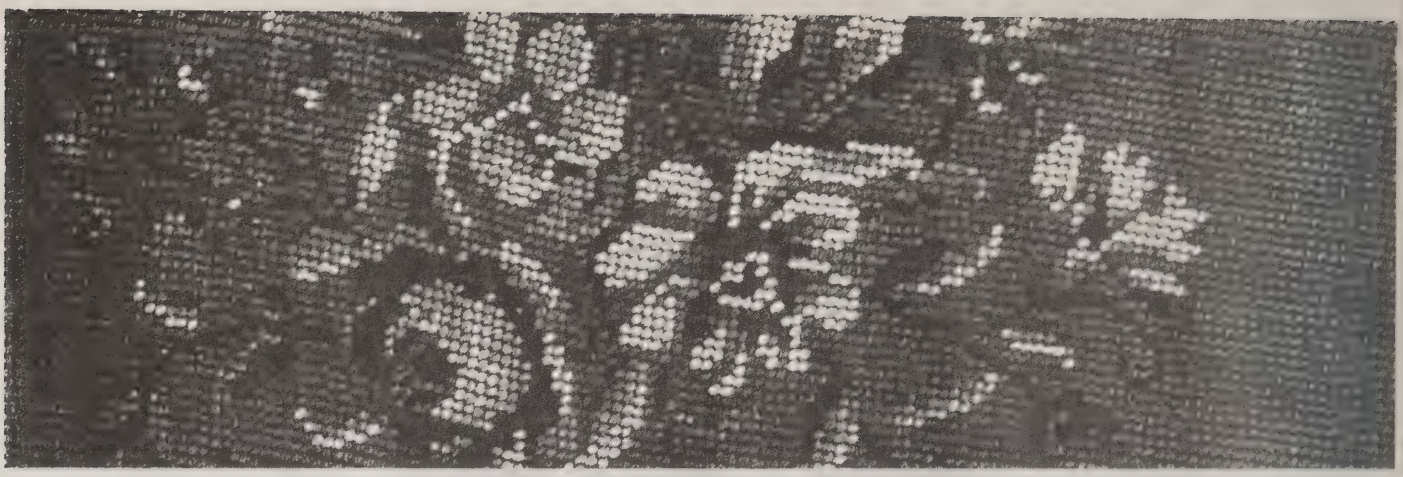

A Stitch in Time

Perched Like a Bee: Berlinwork Bouquet

In the early nineteenth century Herr Ludwig Wilhelm Wittich, a print-seller in Berlin, began to market handpainted patterns for cross-stitch or tent-stitch (needlepoint) needlework. The bright patterns were based on Frau Wittich's floral designs of moss roses, morning glories, lilies of the valley, and other commonplace beauties arranged in wreaths, borders, or bouquets. Soon most American embroiderers were caught up in the fad. Chair cushions and footstools were among the most popular uses, and Berlinwork floral motifs began to fill the parlors of America.

In the 1850s florists titilated the public with newly available flowers: fuchsia, dahlia, and shaggy-petaled varieties of chrysanthemums. Berlinwork's popularity exploded again as the two crazes perfectly complemented each other. Patterns began to feature dramatic displays of enthusiastically hued exotic blooms, worked with wool yarns and silk threads brilliantly dyed the intense colors available with the new aniline dyes.

By the end of the 1860s, designs were poorly made. Colors had grown even more gaudy. The stage was set for William Morris and his daughter May to revolutionize the look of embroidery with a return to coiling-stem designs inspired by the needlework of the seventeenth century.

Long after the Berlinwork craze had faded, my aunt Marge grew up in western New York state. She lived just around the corner from a boy named John Anderson and became my aunt when she married him. Marge is both an avid gardener and a lover of American antiques. Her collection features her heirlooms; she sprouted from a family tree with its roots in precolonial New England.

As I type this, I'm not only using my computer keyboard, but depending on a bit of the distant past as well. My hands are supported by an up-to-date wrist-rest, but the bulk of me's perched on a chair cushion created by a member of my aunt's family.

At its center is a bouquet: roses, rosebuds, columbine, a carnation, and sprays of several pretty but indeterminate woodsy or meadowland blossoms. The colors are bright, but subtle and shaded, while the background is stitched with yarn dyed an easy-on-the-eyes clay red. It looks like it was made in Berlinwork's early days, yet seems comfortable in a turn-of-the-twenty-first-century room.

For fabulous photos, line drawings, and more information about flowers, needlework, and their common history, take a peek at *The Embroiderer's Flowers* by Thomasina Beck. The source for this column's historical material, it was published in England in 1992 by David & Charles.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Road Salt

To the Editor:

I am very concerned about the excessive use of salt on Monterey roads. It is known that salt is harmful to plants and wildlife. I have two young trees near the road that appear to be dying. Is this a result of road salt?

I am also concerned with salt in our water supplies, including our own.

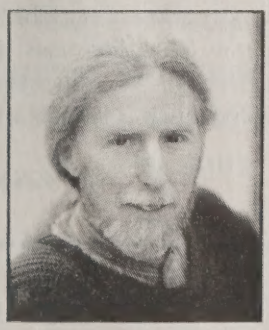
Driving to and from Great Barrington on Route 23, it is very clear that the road has many more, and more significant, frost heaves than during the usual winter. Also cracks in the pavement along the edge are greater than usual. Is this damage to our roads a result of the much greater amount of melted snow that has seeped into the pavement and frozen?

For many years, sand and a little salt provided protection on our roads. Why do we now have to endanger our environment with such excessive use?

— Storrs Olds

Personal and Business Coach

L. Michael Johnson



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Pass on the Salt

To the Editor:

I am writing in reference to Suzanne Hoppenstedt's remarks in the paper concerning the use of salt on our roads in Monterey. As a long-time resident of this town, I firmly believe in the well-being of our water. The lakes and streams, and our fresh water wells used for drinking and doing chores around the house. I was not aware of the increased use of salt due to drivers' needs to have clear roads. Nor was I aware of the expense. I suppose this might support the various out-of-town drivers, but not those of us who are smart enough to own a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Therefore, I fully support the idea that we ALL decide to drive slower and take more caution when the weather reaches severe conditions. God bless Monterey and those who are a part of this beautiful place.

— John B. Humphrey

Aw Shucks

To the Editor:

We love the *Monterey News* and appreciate it at home in California!

Thank You,

— Janet and Dave Cathcart

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Little League Tryouts in Sheffield

The Kiwanis Club of Sheffield will hold its Little League Baseball tryouts on Wednesday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 31, at 10:00 a.m. at the high school gymnasium at Mt. Everett Regional High School in Sheffield. Boys and girls ages 9 through 12 as of August 1 who live in the towns of Ashley Falls, Sheffield, Egremont, New Marlboro, Monterey, or Sandisfield are eligible. Sign-ups for Minor League Baseball for players 7-8 years old and T-Ball for players 5-6 years old will be held at the same time. For more information regarding Little League Baseball, contact Cindy Wolfe at (413) 229-2666. For Minor League and T-Ball information, contact Rob Gingras at (413) 229-3080.

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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to **Arnold Garber, Graham Quisenberry,** and **Jeremy Vallianos** all on the 1st, **Hunter Andrus** on the 3rd, **Travis Raab** on the 5th, **Janet Garber** on the 7th, **Anne Marie O'Connor** on the 8th, **Bob Gauthier** on the 10th, **Valerie Costas** and **Bonner McAllester** on the 13th, **Barbara Shea** on the 14th, **Cameron Carnese** on the 15th, **Annabel Edelman** on the 17th, **Bill Thieriot** on the 19th, **Carol Edelman** on the 23rd, **Alf Pedersen** and **Ellen Pedersen** on the 27th, **Roma Foreman** on the 29th, **Barbara Gauthier, Diana Lazzarini, Will Marsh,** and **Ray Ward** on the 31st.

Anniversary Greetings to **Jerry and Giuliana Raab** on the 9th, and to **Bud and Shirley Pearl** on March 25th as they celebrate their 50th!

Best wishes to **Claire Mielke** as she recuperates from knee surgery. A torn ACL sidelined her halfway through this basketball season. She'll be back on the court next season, if not before.

Congratulations to **Ann Higgins,** who has just received her Master's Degree in English from UMass, Amherst. She has racked up a remarkable record on the way, winning all the awards and prizes that the English Department gives its graduate students for their academic work. She is now continuing her work toward a Ph.D. Well done, Ann!

Glynis Oliver

Herald of spring

Looking Back

1970: The winner of the D.A.R. Good Citizen Award was Miss Lynn O'Connell, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene O'Connell of Monterey.

1980: Fred Lancome has resigned as Chairman of the Democratic Party. The new Chairperson will be Kay Mielke.

1990: Several Monterey members of Mt. Everett Regional School's Music Dept. auditioned for, and were selected to participate in, the Massachusetts Music Educators Conference Junior High Band and Chorus events.... Marta Makuc on trombone and choral students Erin and Meghan Sadlowski and Jason Farrenkopf were selected. Erin Sadlowski was also selected to participate in the American Choral Directors' Conference Honors Chorus in Washington, DC.

This ends our year-long look back at the *Monterey News* Personals. If you haven't had enough, the archives are available to look through at the Library.

— Deborah Mielke

Contributors

We are grateful to the following people for their recent contributions:

David Catheart
Charles Adams
Tim Walter
Michael Wilcox
Rita Kasky
Georgiann & Royal Shepard

CHARLES J. FERRIS
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Calendar

The skating rink is open, weather permitting. Schedule is posted at the rink and at Town Hall.

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30–1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Friday, March 2: Special Town Meeting to discuss and vote on establishing a Board of Health separate from Select Board, 7:00 p.m., Firehouse.

Friday, March 9:

Full Moon.

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Meetinghouse basement.

Family Network trip to Gould Farm sugar bush, 10:30 a.m. Information (413) 528-0721 (see p. 6).

Saturday, March 10: Republican Party Caucus, 1:30 p.m., Monterey Firehouse

Tuesday, March 20:

First Day of Spring

Free blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m., church basement, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. **(Please note the change in location.)**

Saturday, March 24: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Christine Hale. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

Tuesday, March 27: Pick up day for your daffodils at General Store (see p. 4).

Great Barrington Coop Preschool Carnival

The Great Barrington Cooperative Preschool will hold a Family Carnival fund-raiser on Saturday, March 24, from 2–5 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Center on East Street, Great Barrington. The carnival will feature puppet shows by Doctor Marmelaid, Bowie the Clown, refreshments, kiddie games and crafts. Admission is $5.00 per person, with children under three free. Proceeds will be used to replace the old playground equipment.

The Observer

January 26—February 25

High temp. (2/21)	48°
Low temp. (2/13)	- 4°
Avg. high temp.	33.7°
Avg. low temp.	14.0°
Avg. temp.	23.7°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.95"
Snowfall	29.5"
Precipitation occurred on 16 days	

(For comparison, for the same period a year ago the average temperature was 22.0° and the snowfall was 30.5".)

Transfer Station Hours

Sunday ..... 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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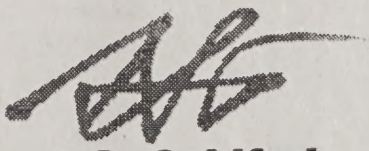

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 5; Bonner McAllester, p. 14; Glynis Oliver, p. 11; Thomas Yohe, pp. 1, 9.

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